(b) if so, by when Government proposes to provide such a train to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

Passenger halt at Nalco Nagar

†250. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is aware of the announcement made by the then Hon'ble Railway Minister in his last rail budget speech regarding providing a halt at "Nalco Nagar" between Talcher Road and Angul under East Coastal Railway in Orissa;

(b) whether her Ministry is also aware that heavy profit earning public sector company National Aluminium Company (NALCO) is ready to bear the expenditure to be incurred on construction of platform at proposed Nalco Nagar passenger halt; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Additional berth adjacent to windows in trains

†251. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have fixed an additional berth between two berths adjacent to the window in three thousand IInd Sleeper coaches, as a result of which passengers are facing so many difficulties;

(b) whether the Railways had made any survey to get the opinion of people regarding this scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 97 per cent people in south-west zone had made objection on it;

(d) whether her Ministry is contemplating to cancel the scheme after the objection by people; and

(e) the expenditure incurred on fixing additional berth between two berths in IInd Sleeper till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) In order to enhance the passenger carrying capacity, it was programmed to provide additional longitudinal middle berths in sleeper class coaches. About 5000 sleeper class coaches have been provided with such berths.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) During the survey conducted on South Western Railway, 91% of the people objected to the introduction of additional side berths in coaches.

(d) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to discontinue the scheme.

(e) A comprehensive assessment of the expenditure incurred is not available at this juncture.

Bogibeel bridge project

252. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the execution of Bogibeel bridge project over river Brahmaputra, total allocation made during the year 2008-09, executing agencies finalized for various component of work including the work done departmentally;

(b) the target set for each component of work including both side approach road;

(c) whether payment of compensation to the people affected by land acquisition is completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The work on various activities of Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge has been taken up including land acquisition, earthwork, minor and major bridges on the link lines. The land acquisition and boulder collection for guide bund and protection works has almost been completed. Earthwork to the tune of 248.53 lakh cum out of 298.78 lakh cum, 13 super structure out of 19 major bridges and 90 out of 98 minor bridges have already been completed. For the main bridge, sub-structure, well foundations have been taken up and for the super structure, tender is under process. The work of South guide bund has also been taken up. An expenditure of Rs. 439.46 crore was incurred on the project during 2008-09. The target for completion of the project is now revised to March, 2014.

(b) Targets for completion of various components of work is as under:-

(i) Chalkhowa-Moranhat South Bank rail link—completed.

(ii) Guide Bunds — June, 2011.

(iii) Main bridge substructure — March, 2012.

(iv) Road approaches by PWD — March, 2013.

(v) North Bank rail link — Dec., 2013.

(vi) Main bridge super structure road deck and track linking — March, 2014.

(c) The payment towards land acquisition has already been made to the District Authorities. The disbursement to the affected people is to be done by the State Authorities.